Liz Stark

Department of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania
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Education

University of Pennsylvania **Philadelphia, PA**
Ph.D. in Political Science *2028 (Expected)*
Subfields: American Politics and Comparative Politics
Committee: Dr. Marc Meredith (chair), Dr. Daniel Hopkins, Dr. Michael Morse

University of Pennsylvania **Philadelphia, PA**
M.A. in Political Science *May 2026*

University of Chicago **Chicago, IL**
B.A., Political Science, Gender & Sexuality Studies *June 2017*
with Phi Beta Kappa
Honors Thesis: "The Impact of Gender Bias on Political Preferences: A Case Study of the 2016 Election"
Advisor: Dr. Ruth Bloch Rubin

Academic Publications

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Morse, Michael, Marc Meredith, and **Liz Stark**. "Reducing Lost Votes by Mail: Evidence on Vote Curing from Pennsylvania." *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies* (forthcoming 2027).

Stark, Liz. "Democracy on the Front Pages: Evaluating Local Media Coverage of Election Officials." *Election Law Journal: Rules, Politics, and Policy* (2025).

Working Papers

Stark, Liz. "'Running' Tally: The Politicization of Election Administration in Party Platforms."

Stark, Liz. "Democracy in the Lede: Introducing the Election Administration Media Dashboard."

Stark, Liz. "On the Front Lines (and Front Pages) of Democracy: Evaluating Media Coverage of Election Officials."

Public Writing

Stark, Liz. "What the Exodus of Election Officials Means for Democratic Erosion." *Democratic Erosion Consortium* (2023).

- Published as part of a cross-university collaboration researching threats to democracy.

Awards, Fellowships, and Grants

- Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA) Research Student Fall Travel Grant, University of Pennsylvania — Oct. 2026
- Election Science, Reform, and Administration (ESRA) Conference Travel Grant, Mechanics of Democracy Laboratory at Arizona State University — June 2026
- School of Arts and Sciences (SASGov) Dean's Travel Subvention — April 2025 and 2026
- Information and Democracy Research Grant, Penn Center on Media, Technology and Democracy — Jan. 2026
- Alvin Z. Rubinstein Award, Department of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania — May 2025
    - *The Rubinstein Award recognizes excellence in teaching by a doctoral student in political science.*
- ESRA Conference Scholarship, LeRoy Collins Institute at Florida State University — April 2025
- GAPSA Research Student Spring Travel Grant, University of Pennsylvania — April 2024 and 2025
- Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, Department of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania — Sept. 2022–present
- EPPY Award for Best Use of Data for "CNN Russia Investigation," *Editor & Publisher* — Oct. 2018
- Sigma Delta Chi Award for Best Informational Graphics for "CNN Russia Investigation," Society of Professional Journalists — April 2018
- Travel Grant, Dean's Fund for Student Life, University of Chicago — April 2017

Research Experience

NBC News
Research Analyst, NBC Decision Desk *Sept. 2022–present*
Supervisors: Dr. John Lapinski and Dr. Stephen Pettigrew

- Assist with Election Night projections and elections-related research

Consortium on American Political Economy (CAPE)
Research Assistant *June–Aug. 2024*
Project: Public Policy and American Political Economy Case Development
Supervisor: Dr. Parrish Bergquist

- Researched new policy cases for undergraduate and graduate-level courses
- Developed instructional materials, including syllabi, lectures, slides, and in-class assignments

University of Michigan
Participant, Summer Institute in Survey Research Techniques *June–July 2024*

- Completed coursework, including original survey designs, for "Introduction to Survey Methodology" and "Writing Questions for Surveys"

MIT Election Data and Science Lab (MEDSL)
Research Assistant, Mapping Election Administration and Election Science Project *May–Aug. 2023*
Project: "The Future of Voter Registration: Access, Accuracy, and Cost"

- Researched voter registration policies for MEDSL's white paper series on election administration

Conferences and Presentations

"The Politicization of Election Administration in National and State Party Platforms"

- Panelist at the Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) Election Sciences Conference-within-a-Conference (CWC) in St. Pete Beach, FL. — Jan. 2027 *(Accepted)*
- Panelist at the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Conference in Chicago, IL. — April 2026
- Poster presenter at the Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior (EPOVB) Annual Conference at Stony Brook University, Long Island, NY. — May 2025
- Panelist at the MPSA Conference in Chicago, IL. — April 2025

"Democracy in the Lede: Introducing the Election Administration Media Dashboard"

- Panelist at the American Political Science Association (APSA) Meeting in Boston, MA. — Sept. 2026
- Panelist at the Election Science, Reform, and Administration (ESRA) Conference in Phoenix, AZ. — June 2026
- Panelist at the SPSA Election Sciences CWC in New Orleans, LA. — Jan. 2026

"On the Front Lines (and Front Pages) of Democracy: Evaluating Media Coverage of Election Officials"

- Panelist at the ESRA Conference in Phoenix, AZ. — June 2026

"Reducing Lost Votes by Mail: Evidence on Vote Curing from Pennsylvania"

- Panelist at the "Books & Ballots" webinar series hosted by the Center for Election Innovation & Research, The Elections Group, and Arizona State University's Mechanics of Democracy Laboratory. — Aug. 2025
- Panelist at the ESRA Conference in Tallahassee, FL. — June 2025

"Democracy on the Front Pages: Evaluating Local Media Coverage of Election Officials"

- Panelist at the University of Pennsylvania American Politics Workshop. — March 2025
- Panelist at the APSA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA. — Sept. 2024
- Poster presenter at the ESRA Conference in Los Angeles, CA. — May 2024
- Panelist at the MPSA Conference in Chicago, IL. — April 2024

"The Impact of Gender Stereotypes on Political Preferences: A Case Study of the 2016 Presidential Election"

- Poster presenter at the MPSA Conference in Chicago, IL. — April 2017
- Poster presenter at the Stanford University Research Conference in Palo Alto, CA. — April 2017
- One of ten plenary speakers selected to present at Yale University Undergraduate Research Conference in New Haven, CT. — Feb. 2017

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant

Race and Ethnic Politics with Dr. Daniel Gillion	Spring 2025
The Changing American Electorate with Dr. Daniel Hopkins	Fall 2024
Public Policy Process with Dr. Parrish Bergquist	Spring 2024
Introduction to American Politics with Dr. Marc Meredith	Fall 2023

Guest Lectures

- "Measuring Election Performance: Confidence in Election Results" for *Democracy at Work in the United States* with Pennsylvania Secretary of the Commonwealth Al Schmidt — March 2026
- "Race in Election Administration" for *Race and Ethnic Politics* with Dr. Daniel Gillion — April 2025
- "Administrative Burden and Elections" for *Public Policy Process* with Dr. Parrish Bergquist — Feb. 2025

Teaching Certificate

- Certificate in College and University Teaching, Center for Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Innovation (CETLI) at the University of Pennsylvania — Dec. 2024

Service to the Discipline

- Peer Reviewer, *Sociological Methods & Research* — Nov. 2026–present
- Peer Reviewer, *Election Law Journal* — Nov. 2024–present
- Editorial Assistant, *Political Analysis* — Sept. 2024–2026
- Discussant, *Northeast Workshop in Empirical Political Science (NEWEPS)* — Oct. 2025
- American Politics Workshop Organizer, University of Pennsylvania — Sept. 2024–May 2025
- Professional associations: *APSA (EPOVB), JAWS, MPSA, NCAPSA, NEWEPS, SPSA*

Professional Experience

CNN **Washington, DC**
- Reporter and Producer, Agencies Unit *June 2017–2022*
- Researcher and Producer, Politics and 2020 Election Decision Desk
- Associate Assignment Editor, Newsgathering
- News Associate, Investigations

ABC News **Washington, DC**
- Intern, White House and Congress Unit *June–Sept. 2016*

The White House **Washington, DC**
- Broadcast Media Intern, Office of Communications *June–Aug. 2015*

NBCUniversal, Inc. News Division **New York, NY**
- Production Intern, MSNBC's "Morning Joe" *June–Sept. 2014*

Other Publications

News Articles (sample of work from 200 articles published on CNN)

- **Stark, Liz**. "Biden takes on multiple crises without key confirmed officials at the helm." — July 2021
- **Stark, Liz**. "US watchdog calls for greater transparency on coronavirus data from government agencies." — March 2021
- Cohen, Ethan, **Liz Stark**, and Adam Levy. "117th Congress: Breaking down the historic numbers." — Jan. 2021
- **Stark, Liz** and Ethan Cohen. "All 50 states have now certified their presidential election results." — Dec. 2020
- Cohen, Ethan and **Liz Stark**. "CNN has not yet projected a winner in 3 states. Here's where the vote count stands in each of them." — Nov. 2020
- Sullivan, Kate, Adam Levy, Ethan Cohen, and **Liz Stark**. "These states have unique election rules." — Nov. 2020
- **Stark, Liz** and Ethan Cohen. "Democratic turnout advantage in pre-election vote narrows." — Oct. 2020
- **Stark, Liz**, Adam Levy, and Ethan Cohen. "Florida's early vote skewing younger so far." — Oct. 2020
- **Stark, Liz** and Veronica Stracqualursi. "Democrats lead in absentee requests in Florida and North Carolina." — Sept. 2020
- Fossum, Sam, Em Steck, **Liz Stark**, and Caroline Kelly. "What we learned watching Robert Mueller for 18 months." — April 2019
- **Stark, Liz** and Grace Hauck. "Forty-four states and DC have refused to give certain voter information to Trump commission." — July 2017
- Cohen, Marshall, **Liz Stark**, and Tal Yellin. "Tracking the Russia investigations." (Award-winning database tracking the special counsel and congressional committees' Russia investigations.) — 2017–2020

Interviews

- **Stark, Liz**. " 'No One Wins When The World Is Unstable': Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel." *The Gate: The University of Chicago Undergraduate Political Review*. — May 2016
- Schwab, Haley and **Liz Stark**. " 'Beyond the Bilateral': The Honorable Jon Huntsman." *The Gate: The University of Chicago Undergraduate Political Review*. — Feb. 2016
- **Stark, Liz**. " 'My country is Baltimore and Baltimore is my country': Gov. Martin O'Malley." *The Gate: The University of Chicago Undergraduate Political Review*. — Dec. 2015

Skills

Languages

French (Proficient); Russian (Beginner)

Software

R; Stata; LaTeX; Claude Code; Qualtrics; CMS; iNEWS; Media Source; Site Editor